JOHN J. ABT Post 8/11/91
Communist Party Lawyer

John J. Abt, 87, who was chief counsel to the Communist Party in the United States and a party member, died Aug. 10 in New York City after a stroke.

In the 1950s, he challenged the Internal Security Act, which required communists to register with the government. It also forbade communists from holding federal jobs or U.S. passports. The Supreme Court upheld the registration requirement, but ruled that communists could refuse to register based on their right against self-incrimination.